

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7-10, and 12-14 are pending. In the present amendment, Claims 1, 2, 13, and 14 are currently amended. Support for the present amendment can be found in the original specification, for example, at page 12, line 21 to page 13, line 17, and in original Claims 6 and 11. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-5, 7-10, and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; and Claims 1-5, 7-10, and 12-14 were indicated as including allowable subject matter if re-written to overcome the rejection under 5 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 1-5, 7-10, and 12-14

Turning now to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claims 1 and 2 are hereby amended to address the issues noted in the Office Action.

Specifically, Claim 1 is amended to recite that “wherein the bracket and the bearing plate are fixed to each other by a plurality of connecting portions, each of which comprises a throughhole formed in at least one of the bracket and the bearing plate and elongated in a vertical direction and a rod-shaped fastener extending through the throughhole and fastening the bracket and the bearing plate to each other, such that the rod-shaped fastener is configured to be adjustable in position with the throughhole to allow the bracket and the bearing plate to be adjusted in relative positions in the vertical direction.” A similar amendment is made to Claim 2.

Accordingly, the structure corresponding to the last paragraph of amended Claims 1 and 2 improves the parallelism between the arm and lid in closing the lid, so that the lid can be operated more reliably. This structure provides a fine adjustment function for presetting

the apparatus. Accordingly, as shown in an exemplary embodiment in Figure 7, when the lid 14 comes into contact with the sealing member 16 in a horizontal state, the swing arm 24 is also in a horizontal state. This structure can be used to adjust the height of the lid 14 held in a parallel state (the distance between the lid 14 and the opening 12 of the container main body 8). Consequently, the lid 14 can be more reliably operated in closing the opening 12, while preventing the seat portion 20 (sealing member 16) from being damaged.

In view of amended Claims 1 and 2, it is believed that all pending claims are definite and no further rejections on that basis are anticipated. However, if the Examiner disagrees, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned who will be happy to work with the Examiner in a joint effort to derive mutually acceptable language.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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